

DISTRICT II ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes –January 14, 2002

The District II Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Christian Church, 2900 N. Rock Road. There were approximately 200 citizens in attendance.

Members Present

Vice Mayor Joe Pisciotte
David Babich
Kevin Bright*
Martha Bruce Fair
Michele Chauncey
John Fuller
Tim Goodpasture
Shirley Jefferson
Mike Jones
Kathy Wegner

Members Absent

Charlotte Foster
Larry Frutiger
Mike Pompeo

City of Wichita Staff

James Armour, Public Works
Carl Gipson, Public Works
Steve Lackey, Public Works
Mike Lindebak, Public Works
Donte Martin, CMO

Council Member Joe Pisciotte called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Martha Bruce Fair (Chauncey) moved the agenda be approved as submitted. The motion passed (8-0).

Mike Jones (Shirley Jefferson) moved the minutes of the October 16, 2001 meeting be approved as submitted, and the minutes November 5, 2001 meeting be approved as amended to reflect Kathy Wegner being present. The motion passed (8-0).

No items were submitted for the public agenda, unfinished business agenda, planning agenda, or the new business agenda.

BOARD AGENDA

1. Improvements to Orme Street

Carl Gipson, Special Project Engineer, presented a bridge construction project on Orme near Pinecrest. The project would include the installation of a concrete reinforced box culvert bridge. The total cost would be approximately \$350,000 that would be paid entirely by the City of Wichita through funds generated by sales tax. There would be no costs assessed to neighboring residents.

Vice Mayor Pisciotte thanked Gipson for his presentation and asked if there would be any drainage issues resulting from this project.

Gipson replied that the creek level would not be adjusted and the flooding conditions would be the same or better after the project is completed.

Michele Chauncey asked how long would construction of the bridge take.

Gipson answered two months from start to finish. The project would go to bid sometime this spring if approved.

Pisciotte opened the hearing for public comment.

Deb Sanders, 609 S. Pinecrest, stated the bridge is being built to address concerns of the car dealers near this area. The bridge will create a detour from Kellogg and provide through access from Oliver to Woodlawn during the Kellogg construction. Children and elderly citizens walk in the area regularly. The area lacks sidewalks and there are safety concerns due to the increased number of cars that will use this road once the bridge is built. **Sanders** also expressed concern with resulting noise levels once traffic increases.

Tom Coughlin, 641 Pinecrest, stated the businesses located on the Kellogg frontage road already have two-lanes for traffickers. The frontage road should be converted to two-way traffic in those areas that are currently one-way. **Coughlin** expressed concern with speeding traffickers, traffickers not obeying stop signs, and the general safety of this area once Orme becomes a through street.

Jim Tolp, 606 Sylvan, expressed his feelings that this is a residential area, and the bridge only benefits businesses in the area. **Tolp** is also concerned with the potential for increased property taxes and the lack of sidewalks in the area.

Vince Johnston stated that if the bridge is installed there will be a need for stop signs to prevent Orme from becoming a raceway. **Johnston** feels there will be an increase in the number of traffic accidents on Orme and four-way stop signs need to be emplaced. **Johnston** also suggested speed bumps be installed.

David Sanders submitted a petition signed by area residents opposed to this project. **Sanders** also expressed concern with the lack of sidewalks in the neighborhood. Children attending Jefferson Elementary walk the area daily. The proposed changes to this street may decrease safety for children.

Pisciotte ended public comment and announced the remainder of the discussion would be limited to the District Advisory Board.

David Babich agreed with the need for stop signs and suggested the City of Wichita emplace sidewalks at no charge to residents in the area.

Gipson stated that although there are currently no sidewalks in the area construction of the bridge would provide more walking options.

Babich (Goodpasture) moved the DAB recommend construction of the bridge with the condition that stop signs and sidewalks are installed. Installation to be paid by the City of Wichita. The motion passed (8-0).

Action taken: approved the project.

2. Rock Road Improvements 22nd Street North to 29th Street North

Mike Lindebak, City Engineer, presented a design for improvements to the Rock Road corridor. These improvements are being considered based on the recommendations of the Rock Road Corridor Study conducted a few years ago. Each design incorporates suggestions from the corridor study in order to meet the needs of the 30,000 traffickers projected in the 2030 traffic plan.

Three different designs were presented during the August 20th DAB meeting. These designs included 5,6, and 7 lane alternatives. It was decided after hearing concerns from citizens attending the August 20th meeting that Public Works would continue meeting with neighborhood groups in order to develop a design that is acceptable to those most directly impacted.

A meeting was held October 3rd and representatives of the various adjacent HOA's were invited to provide input as the engineers developing this design sought to address identified concerns. Public Works, Planning, WPD, and CMO staff represented the City of Wichita.

As a result of this meeting a five-lane design was tentatively agreed upon by the represented HOA's. This five-lane design would incorporate traffic signals and deceleration lanes to address traffic issues. This design calls for opening a current cul de sac at Dublin Ct. in order to connect traffic from Greenbriar to a traffic light that would be emplaced at Oxford. Raised medians would be used as a safety feature. The medians would be landscaped similar to other medians throughout Wichita. This design was presented at the November 5, 2001 DAB meeting.

City of Wichita staff continued to working with affected residents after the November 5 meeting. Representatives of impacted homeowner associations provided comments and suggestions. These suggestions have been incorporated into a proposed design that staff believes will meet the needs of traffickers for years to come.

This design does not include opening Dublin Court, but does emplace a light at Oxford. The light at Oxford meets warrants according to the latest traffic count. The final design also provides residents within Penstemon access to a signalized u-turn at 29th and Rock Road. Traffickers

wanting to go south from Greenbriar could either utilize the u-turn at 29th Street North or use the acceleration lane that will be constructed on Rock Road adjacent to Greenbriar.

Michele Chauncey suggested the traffic engineer consider limiting right-turns on red from 29th Street onto Rock Road going south. **Chauncey** expressed concern with young drivers making u-turns.

David Babich stated he agrees with placing the light at Oxford but feels Penstemon should be connected to the light through an opening at Dublin Ct. This would provide three neighborhoods direct access to the traffic signal.

Lindebak replied that staff felt this would unduly impact those residents on Dublin Ct. and would drastically change the character of the neighborhood. This design provides Penstemon with several safe options to access Rock Road without negatively impacting another neighborhood.

Mike Jones asked how the light at Oxford would be triggered and what would be the duration of the signal change.

Lindebak responded the light would be triggered by an inground sensor on Oxford near the intersection. The duration of the light would depend on the amount of traffic.

Pisciotte opened the hearing for public comment.

Affected homeowner associations were invited to attend the DAB meeting and express their concerns with the project. Homeowner association concerns included: 1) changing property values; 2) median maintenance; 3) if medians are constructed that contain trees the trees may obstruct the view of traffic; 4) the safety of drivers exiting Penstemon; 5) the necessity of having direct access to a traffic light; 6) the increased number of accidents that will occur once the light at Greenbriar is removed; 7) constructing shorter medians that will allow for more traffic storage; and 8) Bluestem HOA voted unanimously to maintain their current opening on Rock Road.

David Babich (Jefferson) moved to recommend approval of the Rock Road design presented at the November 5 DAB meeting. The motion failed (2-6).

Michele Chauncey (Jones) moved the design be approved as submitted with the following conditions; 1) Public Works will continue to monitor the traffic situation within Penstemon; and 2) Public Works will begin a complete traffic study of this area one year after construction is complete. The motion passed (6-2).

Action taken: approved the project.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Donte Martin
Neighborhood Assistant
District II